

English Policy

Written by	<i>English Committee</i>
Date Approved by School Council	August, 2014

Rationale

Active and effective participation in society depends on the ability to speak, listen, read, view and write with confidence, purpose and enjoyment. The study of English and the broader concept of literacy, is about the appropriate and effective use of language, the use of language as a means of learning and the knowledge of language.

Aims

- The English program aims to develop in students:
 - The ability to speak, listen, read and write with confidence, purpose and enjoyment
 - A knowledge of the ways language varies according to context, purpose, audience and content and the capacity to apply this knowledge
 - A broad knowledge and use of a range of texts
 - A knowledge of linguistic patterns used to construct different texts and the ability to apply this knowledge, especially in writing
 - The ability to discuss and analyse texts and language critically
 - A knowledge of the ways textual interpretation and understanding may vary according to cultural, social, and personal experiences and differences, and the capacity to develop reasoned arguments about interpretation and meaning

Implementation

- All students at our school will study an English course based on the Australian Curriculum Standards
- Student's individual performance will be monitored using formal measurements and learning opportunities will be provided to cater for the needs of each student
- Student progress in English will be reported in half year and end of year academic reports, as well as be reported in the school's annual report
- English study for each student will be no less than 10 hours per week. All attempts will be made to allow for 2 hour literacy blocks each day
- A staff member will be allocated the responsibility of coordinating the school's English program, as will be resourced through the level budgets
- Take home reading is to be an essential part of the program for students Prep – 2 and it is expected that students in grades 3 to 6 will read, independently at home on a regular basis. Parents will be informed that students are expected to read at home
- Students in Prep to 2 will select take home readers from the broad banded levelled books and from the library for more accomplished readers
- Information sessions for "Helpers in the Classroom" and "Parents in Partnership" will be offered to parents and integration aides where possible
- Identified Year One students will be offered a Reading Intervention Program to support the classroom program
- English tools such as Literacy Planet, THRASS and Lexiles, will be utilised and resourced through school budgets
- Professional Development in English tools, and effective teaching and learning will be provided to new staff or to refresh current staff

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.